

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 VIENTI 03610 221410Z

47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 OPR-02 A-01 PER-03 IGA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-07 SY-05 SCCT-01 /076 W

----- 015150

R 221233Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USINFO WASHDC N I A C T IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3986

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEPT OF DEFENSE WASHDC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 3610

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SERVICE, IEA/L,
IOP/G, STATE FOR EA/P, EA/LC, S/PRS, BANGKOK FOR VOA AND PAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, LA

SUBJ: USINFO

1. THE LAO GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED FOR RENEGOTIATION OF THE
USAID PROGRAM IN LAOS, GOVERNMENT SPOKEMAN OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG
ANNOUNCED TODAY (MAY 22). OUDAY SAID THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY
HAS AGREED TO WITHDRAW USAID FROM THE PROVINCES,
AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT HAS BEEN APPOINTED
TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE US EMBASSY OVER THE STATUS OF USAID
IN VIENTIANE.

2. THE EMBASSY CONFIRMED THAT IT SENT A LETTER TO
THE COALITION GOVERNMENT (THE PGNU) EARLIER THIS WEEK
NOTIFYING THE PGNU OF ITS INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE
PROVINCES BECAUSE CONDITIONS HAD DETERIORATED TO THE EXTENT THAT
IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE NORMAL OPERATIONS. A PGNU-US COMMITTEE
WILL VISIT FORMER USAID SITES TO DISCUSS TURNING OVER MATERIAL TO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 VIENTI 03610 221410Z

THE LAO GOVERNMENT, OUDAY SAID. CURRENTLY THE ONLY USAID

EMPLOYEES OUTSIDE VIENTIANE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN HELD UNDER HOUSE ARREST BY PROTESTERS IN SAVANNAKHET FOR THE PAST TEN DAYS. TWO MONTHS AGO, THERE WERE USAID OFFICES IN FIVE LOCATIONS OUTSIDE VIENTIANE. UNITED STATES ECONOMIC AID TO LAOS IN THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING THIS JUNE 30 WAS ABOUT \$32 MILLION.

3. ACCORDING TO THE SEPTEMBER, 1951 BILATERAL AGREEMENT WHICH SET UP THE ORIGINAL US ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM IN LAOS, EITHER PARTY MUST GIVE THE OTHER NINETY DAYS NOTICE BEFORE WITHDRAWING FROM THE AGREEMENT. OUDAY SPECIFIED THAT "THE 1951 AGREEMENT WILL BE RE-NEGOTIATED" AND SAID LAOS WOULD ACCEPT FOREIGN AID "DIRECTLY FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO THE NEW SYSTEM." HE MENTIONED GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE AS COUNTRIES WHICH GIVE AID IN AN ACCEPTABLE MANNER, AND SUGGESTED US AID WOULD STILL BE WELCOME UNDER SIMILAR CONDITIONS.

4. LATER, THE OFFICIAL "LAO PRESSE" SAID THE PGNU AND THE US" WILL STUDY IN DETAIL THE TERMS OF A NEW BILATERAL AID AGREEMENT ADAPTED TO THE NEW SITUATION IN THE KINGDOM."

5. MEANWHILE, PROTESTORS OCCUPYING THE USAID COMPOUND IN VIENTIANE EXTENDED THEIR DEADLINE FOR USAID DEPARTURE FROM THREE TO THIRTY DAYS. DURING THE NIGHT, DEMONSTRATORS BROKE INTO THE US COMMISSARY AND WAREHOUSES, BUT THE MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AND DEFENSE ATTACHE BUILDING ARE STILL GUARDED BY TWO MARINES, WHO HAVE NOT BEEN RELIEVED. MEMBERS OF THE JOINT POLICE FORCE ENTERED THE COMPOUND LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, AS MANY PROTESTORS LEFT IN BUSES. HOWEVER, THE COMPOUND IS STILL NOT IN MISSION HANDS.

6. THE JOINT MILITARY PROTECTIVE FORCE IS STILL OCCUPYING THE USAID WAREHOUSE AT KILOMETER NINE ON THE ROAD LEADING SOUTH FROM THE CITY, AND IS NOT PERMITTING EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO ENTER. IN ADDITION, ANOTHER USAID WAREHOUSE NEAR THE COMPOUND IN VIENTIANE HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY PATHET LAO SOLDIERS.

7. AT THE AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL COMPOUND AT KILOMETER SIX, THE JOINT MILITARY PROTECTIVE FORCE IS STILL DENYING FREE EXIT AND ENTRANCE AND IS SEARCHING CARS FOR GOODS. AN AGREEMENT ON FREE PASSAGE WORKED OUT AT NOON BETWEEN THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 VIENTI 03610 221410Z

PATHET LAO SPOKESMAN OF THE JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE ACCORDS (JCCIA) AND AMERICAN MISSION REPRESENTATIVES APPARENTLY LASTED ONLY AN HOUR OR SO.

8. AMERICAN CHARGE CHRISTIAN A. CHAPMAN AND OTHER MISSION OFFICIALS MET LAST NIGHT WITH SOTH PETHRASY, HEAD OF THE PATHET LAO DELEGATION TO THE JCCIA AND MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY; SOUKAN VILAYSARN,

HEAD OF THE VIENTIANE DELEGATION TO THE JCCIA AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF CULTS; AND MAHA KOU SOUVANNAMETHI, PATHET LAO MINISTER OF CULTS, WHO HAD BEEN DELEGATED BY THE CABINET TO ACT AS GO-BETWEEN IN NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE SITUATION. THE TALKS DID NOT PRODUCE AN AGREEMENT, AND THE CABINET DELEGATION DID NOT APPEAR THIS MORNING FOR A SCHEDULED MEETING WITH PROTESTORS AT THE USAID VIENTIANE COMPOUND.

9. CHARGE CHAPMAN MET THIS AFTERNOON WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT.

10. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN OUDAY SAID THIS MORNING THAT THE CABINET WAS "SERIOUSLY CONCERNED" OVER THE SITUATION. HE SAID THE JOINT MILITARY PROTECTION FORCE HAD BEEN SENT TO THE KM SIX RESIDENTIAL COMPOUND TO "AVOID ANY REGRETTABLE INCIDENT."

11. IN OTHER NEWS, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID PATHET LAO TROOPS ENTERED THAKHEK, SAVANNAKHET, AND PAKSE THIS WEEK AT THE INVITATION OF THE PGNU, WHICH WAS SUSPICIOUS OF "CERTAIN GROUPS" STILL LOYAL TO GENERALS WHO HAVE RESIGNED AND FLED THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THE PATHET LAO AND VIENTIANE FORCES CAN NOW FRATERNIZE, IN EXPECTATION OF NEGOTIATIONS TO COMBINE THE TWO FORCES INTO ONE NATIONAL ARMY.

12. INTERIOR MINISTER PHENG PHONGSAVAN, WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO NEGOTIATE THE SITUATION IN SAVANNAKHET, REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO VIENTIANE ABOUT 6 P.M. THIS EVENING. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THE AMERICANS THERE HAD BEEN FREED AND WOULD DEPART TOMORROW. WORD RECEIVED HERE EARLIER IN THE DAY INDICATED THE AMERICANS WERE SAFE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 VIENTI 03610 221410Z

13. IN VIENTIANE, AN ACCELERATED AND SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF USAID PERSONNEL IS CONTINUING. MISSION OFFICIALS HAVE ARRANGED CHARTER OF A CARAVELLE JET FROM ROYAL AIR LAO WHICH WILL DEPART FROM VIENTIANE TOMORROW FOR BANGKOK. AT BANGKOK THE AMERICANS, MOSTLY DEPENDENTS, WILL CONTINUE ONWARD TO THE UNITED STATES VIA REGULARLY SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT. CHARTER FLIGHTS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION -- SEVERAL HUNDRED-- IS ACHIEVED IN USAID PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS IN LAOS.
PATE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI03610
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750179-1148
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750525/aaaaawki.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USINFO
TAGS: MOPS, PINT, LA, US, AID, PGNU, (OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006